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mike

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SC-05985-

18 Feb 53

Austria

1. National elections next Sunday, 22 February
2. Last elections in 1949. Results were

Communists	5	
Social Democrats	67) Government
Peoples Party	77) coalition
Assoc of Independents (neo-nazis)	<u>16</u>	
	165	
3. We feel results will be as follows (bad idea to predict elections!)
 - a) Peoples Party will loose a little to Assoc. of Independents.
 - b) Social Democrats and Commies remain about same.
4. If Peoples Party loose plurality they might
 - a) Form coalition with Assoc of Independents
 - b) Be junior partner of grand coalition with Social Democrats
5. Either possibility will produce uneasy government. But in face of Soviet pressure, any coalition will have to stumble along somehow.

USSR

Leo Zakharovich Mekhlis

1. Jewish Central Committee
Member, died in Moscow last week.
2. Death unsuspicious - aged 64, had been inactive and ill for two years.
Relieved as Minister of State Control in 1950.
3. Given unusually large publicity spread, eulogies, state funeral.
Believed an effort to avoid talk, prevent charges of anti-Semitism.

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